

GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 552.]

APRIL 2, 1860.

Mr. CARTER, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee for the District of Columbia beg leave to submit the following report:

That they find that the buildings and grounds occupied as the Washington Infirmary belong to the United States. The use of them was allowed to the faculty of the medical department of Columbian College, some years ago, for the purposes of an infirmary for the medical instruction and scientific purposes—to be returned, when demanded, in good condition.

That an appropriation of \$20,000 has been made by Congress to the institution, and a further annual appropriation, first of \$2,000, now increased to \$6,000, has been made for several years past to defray the expenses in said infirmary of a limited number of transient paupers who may fall sick while here as strangers, and have no claim upon the corporation of Washington.

That said faculty receive others into the infirmary who pay according to their accommodations, and that all profit arising from the infirmary is enjoyed by the faculty, known as Directors of the Washington Infirmary.

That the faculty use the building for the purposes of a medical college.

That, as a rule, no person is admitted to the infirmary without pay. It is believed that greater benefit will be insured to the public, and the claims of humanity better answered, by placing the infirmary under the care of regents, responsible to proper authorities, that the profits now enjoyed by private individuals may be used to extend relief to a greater number of those who are unable to pay, and cannot be accommodated in the infirmary under present circumstances.

That the rooms now used for medical lectures should be appropriated to hospital purposes.

That the directors in possession have no vested rights, and their interests are not interfered with unjustly by devoting the building to

the accommodation of the sick. Again, they have no claim upon government to be furnished with a building for private purposes.

That regents are the proper authorities to manage the institution, instead of directors virtually self-appointed, self-controlling, and irresponsible.

The management will be more in consonance with republican principles, insuring the greatest good to the greatest number.

WASHINGTON, *March 26, 1860.*

We, the undersigned, after a full and free conference, have concluded to withdraw all opposition to the proposed plan of separating the Washington Infirmary from its present connexion with the National Medical College, and earnestly recommend the adoption by Congress of the accompanying bill.

We further recommend, that in view of the expenses incurred by the present managers in furnishing and supporting the institution for the last fifteen years, that a sufficient sum be appropriated to indemnify them.

J. C. HALL, *M. D.*

ALEX. Y. P. GARNETT, *M. D.*

THO. MILLER, *M. D.*

HARVEY LINDSLY, *M. D.*